The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1655 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 52

WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
IN
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PRAHL

The first crack out of the box from the new Congress will be another raid on labor and social welfare legislation. The newspapers are already beating the drums for such a move and certainly there are enough labor haters and publicity-mad crackpots in Congress to lead a new charge.

Nevertheless, our major New Year prediction is that all such legislative raids on the standards of American workers will fail again, just as they have in the past two years.

This is not an unfounded prediction, based entirely on hope. We have definite assurances that the very forces now within the labor-haters ranks most heavily for voting assistance will not support them. We mean, of course, the newly reinforced Republican minorities.

Every overture by the reactionary Southern Democrats to the Republicans for the formation of an anti-labor coalition in the new Congress has been repudiated by the most influential Republican Congressional leaders. Senate Minority Leader McNary and House Minority Leader Martin both have spurned such invitations and have made it clear that the Republican Party does not intend to be pilloried as an "anti-labor" party to please anyone's game.

Labor On Its Toes

Just the same it behooves every member of organized labor to be more on the alert than ever before during this year to prevent the enactment of dangerous legislation which will not only impair labor standards but endanger the war effort.

The opposition is tricky. It will not advance bills which are openly anti-labor. It will camouflage them with a falsely patriotic veneer. It will propose measures supposedly intended to increase production and cut production costs, but hidden behind these praiseworthy motives will be the dagger aimed at labor standards.

The outstanding example of this clever strategy is the recurrence of the campaign against the 40-hour week. Again an insidious attempt is being made to fool the American people into believing that the hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act are a limit on working time in war industries. Of course, there is no such thing. Of course, the law merely provides that time-and-a-half overtime be paid for hours in excess of 40 per week.

When this basic fallacy in their campaign is exposed, the anti-labor propagandists immediately switch their argument and contend that the requirement of paying overtime forces employers to reduce the maximum possible working time because they cannot afford extra labor costs. This argument, too, is viciously untrue. Employers are not paying these extra costs. They are passing them on to the Government.

At this point the labor-haters raise a new outcry. They say the Government is being buried in debt and the people are being overburdened with taxes just because of the extra overtime costs in war production. Another lie. The increased production and lower overhead made possible by longer hours of operation cut the unit cost of the product and absorb the extra costs of overtime.

Tell Your Neighbors

That just about demolishes the propaganda against the 40-hour standard —that, plus the fact that war production plants are being operated wherever possible much longer than 40 hours a week.

But the fact remains that it is easier to make charges than to answer them; that labor's enemies command a far greater control over press and radio and other means of communication than the friends of labor, and that many people who hear the charges and begin to believe them never have an opportunity of hearing the other side of the case.

Therefore, labor will have to redouble its own educational campaign this year. It will have to be ready to meet false propaganda with facts. It will have to remain constantly on guard against new assaults.

Fortunately, those who administer our Government and make its laws realize that labor is making an amazing record in this war. They know the miracles of production American workers have wrought with their hands and brains. They know the voluntary sacrifices and constructive leadership which organized labor has exerted to spur the war effort. These facts will deter our wiser lawmakers and legislators from upsetting the applecart.

For that is all that anti-labor legislation at this time is likely to accomplish. It will not add a single hour to war production. It will not save the Government a dollar. It will only cause resentment and inject turmoil into the fairly smooth-running war production program. It will not help America win the war. It may only delay victory.

Social Diseases In War Time

By JACOB A. GOLDBERG, Ph.D.
Secretary of the Social Hygiene Committee,
New York Tuberculosis and Health Association;
Public Health Consultant, American Social Hygiene Association

(Following is the first of a series of articles by an eminent medical authority which it is important for every worker to bring to the attention of his country—especially war workers. Other articles in this series by Dr. Goldberg will be published in forthcoming issues.)

"We need manpower and more manpower"—that is the cry throughout the warring nations. If we are to win this war—as win it we shall—all preventable diseases, particularly those attacking men of military age and those beyond whose services are needed in industry, must be checked. This applies particularly to the venereal diseases. If it is recognized that about five per cent of the population has an active case of syphilis, or some other form of disease, more especially syphilis or gonorrhea, it is easy to see what an influence these diseases have had and continue to have on illness, disability, shortage of manpower, social and economic burdens we carry. In a series of articles to follow, specific samples will be given of how syphilis and gonorrhea have seriously affected previously virile men, busy at their trades and occupations, heads of families, interested in the past and now may be cured.

Perhaps the sharpest way to focus attention on this subject is to present some recently compiled figures. A high official of the Selective Service has reported that the Army enrollment thus far has shown 284,000 cases of syphilis and 71,000 cases of gonorrhea. These are astounding figures, but note one thing, however—as a general rule, for every person infected with syphilis, three are infected with gonorrhea. That means if there were 284,000 men infected with syphilis, nearly 900,000 were infected with gonorrhea, from which figure we must subtract those of the 284,000 cases of syphilis who contracted both diseases. It is, therefore, fair to assume that if we have found 284,000 cases of syphilis through the United States Army enrollment facilities, there are probably 700,000 more cases of gonorrhea among these men and others. Of course, these figures represent only a part of the large total among both men and women. These are astounding figures. Fortunately, most cases of gonorrhea can now be quickly cured by competent physicians.

The chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the United States Navy has recently reported that hospital admissions during 1941 for the year, taking figures from 20 cities only in the United States, over 62,000 days were lost by men in the United States Navy due to venereal disease infections. Remember, this is in war time when every patriotic citizen, when the medical personnel of the Navy is busy with other things than treating venereal diseases, and when hospital beds in the Navy are needed for more serious ailments.

In studies made among industrial workers in many parts of the country, altogether too many have been found to have syphilis. Even when only four or five per cent are found with syphilis, and the second and third per cent remember that represents but part of the total who have contracted the disease. Fortunately, those who received early treatment from a competent physician may have had negative blood findings. Still, there are many others who still have signs of syphilis as found by blood examinations, by three, we get 10 to 15 per cent of the male population of working ages with the disease time previously so infected. In other words, between 15 and 20 per cent of adult males among industrial workers seemingly have a venereal disease, or have been infected in the past and now may be cured. What a serious problem this presents!

These figures, partial as they are, stand out as definite signs of hazards facing the nation. If we are concerned with the manpower about to be inducted into the armed forces of our nation in its time of need, or if we are employed on the home front, either in defense industries or in carrying on essential tasks, we must keep free from venereal infections.

Workers who know they have contracted syphilis or gonorrhea, owe a definite responsibility to themselves and to their country to get treatment—to get adequate treatment. Stopping treatment, whether given by attending a hospital or Health Department clinic, they owe it to their families to follow through this treatment, in order to avoid not only infecting their wives and children, but also sending them victims of the disease. Finally, they owe it to their fellow-workers because a mistake on a hazardous job, due to syphilitic eye disease, syphilitic heart disease, syphilitic disease of the central nervous system may result in serious or even fatal accidents.

New Year Greetings

By WILLIAM GREEN,
President, American Federation of Labor

Let our goal be victory in 1943!

As we face the New Year with high resolve, let us all join in a united determination to allow nothing to stop us in working and fighting for the attainment of that goal in the months ahead.

I know that the hearts and minds of American workers are resolved on bringing this war to a speedy and victorious finish by surpassing all previous records for production.

Our millions of boys in uniform are ready to give their lives, if necessary, to destroy our enemies—the enemies of freedom and human decency.

In like spirit, those on the home front will cheerfully assume in the New Year such additional sacrifices as they may be called upon to bear in order to help our fighting forces and speed the day of victory.

This past year has been one of suffering and turmoil for the American people, as our nation mobilized its full strength for combat on the fighting fronts. But compared with the people of other lands, we have thus far been spared the worst effects of war. And instead of being weakened by the drain of war requirements, our nation has been strengthened morally and physically by the supreme call to service. We are united as never before against the enemy's challenge to our way of life. Labor and management, working together in a cooperative spirit, are accomplishing miracles of production. In the year ahead, labor and industry will back up our men on the fighting fronts with the greatest output of planes, tanks, ships and guns the world has ever seen.

For this reason and because of the demonstrated superiority of our fighting men in battles against the enemy on land and sea, it is not optimism but common-sense to look for abridged sway in our favor in the fortunes of war during the coming year.

America and her Allies are now on the offensive. We are determined never to halt until the hateful and intolerant forces opposed to us are crushed for all time.

So let us look forward now to that glorious victory—a victory which must bring lasting peace in its wake and provide opportunity in our own land and all over the world for an era of social and economic and political advances which will wipe out the disgraceful oppression and cruelty of man toward man in past years.

In that spirit, I extend to America's soldiers, sailors and marines, her production soldiers and her vast army of patriotic and cooperative citizens, best wishes for a happy and victorious New Year.

AFL Blasts Nazi Persecution Of Jewish People In Europe

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor denounced Nazi persecution of the Jews in a blistering statement. He said:

"Recent disclosures by the Allied authorities of the pitiless and cold-blooded slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe by the Nazi butchers give us fresh evidence of the terrible fate that awaits all victims of Adolph Hitler.

"At this season of the year it is particularly fitting that men and women everywhere who cherish the principles of religion and humanity should join in voicing their complete condemnation of such Satanic cruelty.

"The American Federation of Labor, now as before, denounces the Nazi savage persecution of Jews as a crime against man and God.

"We are resolved that those responsible for such acts of infamy shall pay the penalty for their criminality by the time this war is over.

"Labor, too, we are confident, will do all that lies within our power to provide immediate relief for the victims of Hitler's hate and to insist upon their full liberation and protection from future oppression and intolerance when victory comes."

Woll Discloses How Labor Fund Aids China, Britain and Russia

New York City.—The thrilling story of how the contributions of American labor enable the Chinese labor movement of Labor to smuggle skilled Chinese workers out of Japanese held territory into free China was revealed by Matthew Woll.

Mr. Woll is president of the Labor League for Human Rights and United Nations Relief. Members of the AFL from Maine to California, at the direction with several hundred local Community War Chests have been making systematic contributions to war relief.

"Since the beginning of the war," said Mr. Woll, "the trade unions of America have been fighting for democracy on every battlefront. They have done this with the weapons they have built and with their dollars. Today, we are assisting Great Britain, Russia and China through the war relief organizations of those countries. This is done in cooperation with the hundreds of Community and War Chests all over the country.

"But over and above those regular contributions which go to our fighting allies, there is a special program of labor services in Britain, Russia and China conducted in the name of the American Labor Movement.

"Mr. Woll asserted that similar allocations of $666,000 from American labor for special projects carried on in the name of the AFL and CIO have been earmarked for Britain and Russia.

"In Britain, he said, the projects include day nurseries for working women's clubs for sailors on shore after long, dangerous voyages; ten nursing homes for orphaned and shell-shocked children; and a rest home for the workers in British war industries, both men and women.

"The Russian allocation, he explained, is for providing schools, nurseries, and rehabilitation centers. These units are being stocked with such commodities as sheets and bedding, shoes, tablets, towels, and other supplies. Women and children and convalescents receive, through the generosity of American labor, warm clothing, shoes and overshoes, evaporated milk, vitamins, school supplies, orthopedic equipment and diathermy apparatus.

"These are not handouts, ordinary contributions," he declared. "A warm blanket is the difference between life and death in the 40-degree below zero weather around Stalingrad. Milk and stout shoes, sulfa drugs and vitamin tablets are potent weapons. They keep our fighting allies strong. They disarm our common enemy. When we do so, the whole story will be told of how these small things, the gift of American labor, helped to sustain the people of Britain, China and Russia in their fight."

News Briefs

MOORE NAMED REGIONAL LABOR AGENT FOR WPB

Atlanta, Ga. — Appointment of Robert R. Moore as regional labor representative of the War Production Board, at Atlanta, was announced by the W.P.B. Mr. Moore will confer with Harry G. Thornton, regional W.P.B. director, on labor problems affecting W.P.B., and will act as labor consultant to the Regional War Manpower Commission. Moore is also designated as the representative of the Labor Production Division on the Labor Requirements Committee in Region 4. The region embraces North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, with headquarters in Atlanta.

Well known in labor circles throughout the Southeast, Moore has served as president of the Alabama State Federation of Labor, Commissioner of Labor for Alabama, and since 1938, has been an organizer for the American Federation of Labor. AFL President William Green recommended Moore for the place he now holds with W.P.B., and gave him a leave of absence to accept the position.

DON'T DISCLOSE NEWS OF USE TO THE ENEMY

Washington, D. C.—If you know what ship a friend is going on, or what company or regiment a soldier is with overseas, then you know a military "secret," the Office of Censorship in Washington warns.

This secret ought not be published. This is why:

A general needs to know the strength of his opponent, how many men, guns, ships, planes there are in each theater of war.

The Nazis and the Japs want to know these things about our forces. Their agents assemble the information like this: from one paper, an item reveals the 600th Infantry is in Australia; in a dispatch the U.S.S. Wisconsin is in the Mediterranean; another, that the 208th Tank Battalion is in Africa.

Add hundreds of these bits of information together, and our enemies have a too-accurate estimate of American military strength.

These are *our* soldiers—Americans all—whom we endanger by these "little slips."

This is not a "blackout" on the news about our soldiers. Considerable latitude in reporting personal experiences gives the enemy little military information, if the troop units, the ships and planes are omitted. Let us have articles about soldiers and sailors and in the dispatches from them, don't give away their fighting units.

108 NEW YORK WORKERS KILLED BY ACCIDENTS

Albany, N. Y.—Preliminary reports of 108 fatal industrial accidents were received by the State Department of Labor during November. A total of 96 male and 12 female workers were killed while at work in various New York State industries, according to a statement issued by Industrial Commissioner Frieda S. Miller. Forty-five of these fatalities occurred in manufacturing industries, 15 in construction, 13 in transportation, 15 in service, 9 in trade, 6 in public employment and 5 in miscellaneous other industries covered by the New York State Compensation Law.

A tabulation of industrial deaths compiled under the direction of Dr. E. B. Patton, Director of the Division of Statistics and Information of the Department of Labor, shows that the November reports totaled the same as those reported during October of this year and 3 less than the number reported in November 1941.

TITAN METAL CO. PAYS UNION MEMBERS $141,762

Bellefonte, Pa.—On December 16, 1942, the Titan Metal Company of Bellefonte, Pa., paid to the employees of a National Labor Relations Board award of $141,762.61 to approximately 106 members of AFL Federal Labor Union No. 19981. The award was made on February 23, 1938, in connection with a strike of members of the union in January 1937.

The board ordered the company to reinstate some 120 workers to their former jobs upon application for reemployment. The company appealed the decision to the highest courts which sustained the board. Finally, last month, the representatives of the company entered into a stipulation with the board in which it agreed to pay an award of $141,762.61 on the instalment plan over a period of 36 months. The first instalment was paid on December 16, and made a nice Christmas present to the 106 strikers who received it as pay for lost time.

320,000 "108 TRAINERS" EMPLOYED IN WAR PLANTS

Washington, D. C.—More than 6,500 war industry plants in which more than 6,500,000 men and women are employed are now using the program of "training within industry" service of the War Manpower Commission.

More than 320,000 supervisors, industrial foremen and crew chiefs have been certified as war production job instructors, and the announced goal of 400,000 "trainers" by the end of 1942 will be reached.

Green Appoints New AFL Committee To Map Labor's Post-War Program

Board, Headed By Woll, To Seek Plan For Labor To Present at Peace Conferences

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor appointed a Post-War Planning Committee of nine members and directed it to begin immediate preparation of a program designed to give reality to the ideals for which America is now fighting.

Mr. Green called upon the committee to investigate and report on these subjects:

1—A plan for labor representation in the peace conferences which will follow victory.

2—Specific proposals which the labor representatives should seek to have incorporated in the peace treaty.

3—A broad program of post-war reconstruction to prevent a disastrous depression.

4—Expansion of social, economic and political security for America and the peoples of all lands.

Mr. Green named Matthew Woll, vice president of the American Federation of Labor, as chairman of the committee. Others designated to serve with him were:

David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; Miss Agnes Nestor, director of Research and Education of the International Glove Workers Union; Dr. John Childs of Columbia University, representing the American Federation of Teachers; Harvey Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists; George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; Richard Gray, secretary of the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers; Rubin Borenstein, president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, and Milton F. Webster, vice president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Mr. Green, who was authorized to appoint such a committee by the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, said:

"We must start planning now for the emergencies that will face us when the war is over. We can't afford to wait until victory is won. Without adequate preparation and a specific program to meet that day of victory, we may find—as in the last war—that the battle was in vain.

"We know our objectives. We want lasting peace. We want equity between nations. We want freedom and opportunity for all nations. We want social and economic security for all peoples.

"These are the things labor in America is working and fighting for. These are the objectives which will spell the real victory and the permanent destruction of the forces of hate and oppression against which we are now engaged in a desperate struggle.

"I firmly hope that through the findings of this committee the American Federation of Labor will be able to show that labor is measuring up to its responsibilities and is capable of exerting real leadership for a better world."

New Survey Debunks Propaganda To Repeal 40-Hour Standard

Washington, D. C.—Another survey by the Department of Labor again debunked charges that the 40-hour week overtime standard law is restricting hours of work in vital war plants.

Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins disclosed that the average scheduled work-week in durable manufacturing industries, where war production is concentrated, had risen to nearly 48 hours in October.

The report embraced the average included "industries in which production has been restricted by the war" as well as war factories.

"Weekly hours actually worked in all durable manufacturing industries where war production is largely concentrated, but including also industries in which production has been restricted by the war, averaged 45.7 hours in October as against 44.6 in September and 45 2 in August," Miss Perkins revealed.

All 49 durable goods industries reported increases in hours of work during October, she said.

Anti-labor propagandists have renewed their fight against the 40-hour week law, on the ground that it is limiting production of essential war materials. Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt recently attacked inefficiency creating the impression, that this law prevents anybody from working more than 40 hours. Actually it provides only for payment of time-and-a-half for overtime labor.

Testing examples of industries in which long work-weeks prevail, Miss Perkins cited machine-tools, where the average of hours worked is now 52.5, and firearms, in which the average is 49.

AFL Urged To Back Roosevelt's New Social Security Proposals

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, asked all State Federations and city central labor bodies to support the recommendations for liberalizing social security message to Congress.

Warning that an inadequate social security program would mean that after the war at least one-half of the population would be "on the dole," a situation which he said would menace democratic institutions, Mr. Green, in a letter to all affiliates, also outlined the Federation's complaints against the security program, part of which was approved at the Federation's convention in Toronto last October.

The Federation's program, which was drafted in close cooperation with Administration leaders, follows:

1. Extension of old-age insurance benefits and farm workers and public employes not already covered.

2. A national employment service to supply the widest possible application of those seeking work and to obtaining substantially jobs

Southern War Labor Parley To Draw Union Leaders to Atlanta Jan. 16-17

Atlanta, Ga.—Credentials and requests for hotel reservations are pouring into the office of George L. Googe, southern representative of the American Federation of Labor, for the Southern War Labor Conference to be held here on Jan. 16 and 17.

Many presidents and secretaries of international unions have already requested reservations, not only for themselves, but for their organizing staffs, thus indicating the tremendous value being placed upon the coming conference by outstanding labor leaders.

The conference is being sponsored by the State Federation of Labor officers in eleven Southern states. From all of these states many central labor unions and local unions have already made reservations.

The Atlanta Federation of Trades is acting as host to the conference delegates and visitors.

Interest in the coming conference is not confined to the labor groups. The business executives and heads of manufacturing concerns are giving a luncheon at noon on Saturday, January 16, at which President William Green of the American Federation of Labor will be the guest of honor.